

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously Presented) A screw press (1) for pressing fibrous material, in particular sugar beet pulp, comprising:
  - at least one pair of helical elements (20, 30) disposed mutually parallel and side by side, each of said helical elements (20, 30) comprising at least one helix (22, 23, 32, 33) disposed about a rotary shaft (21, 31) which extends along a predetermined axial direction (X-X, X'-X');
  - a perforated walled filtering cage (5) supported at least lowerly by a series of equidistant hoops (13, 14) and enclosing said pair of helical elements (20, 30) as an exact fit;
  - for feeding the fibrous material to the press, a loading hopper (8) fixed to the hoops (13, 14) supporting the cage (5);
  - for exit of the pressed material, a discharge opening (9) positioned in proximity to the end of the press (1) with respect to the material advancement direction;

In re'of: 'BABBINI 1

- a collection sump (10) positioned externally to said filtering cage (4), to collect the liquid component of the pressed fibrous material;

characterised in that

said filtering cage (5) presents an upper part and a lower part each supported by upper and lower hoops (13, 14), the upper part being of modular structure having a distance between the axes of each module (M) which is constant and is a sub-multiple of, or equal to, the dimension of the loading hopper (8) measured along said predetermined axial direction, each module (M) comprising at least two upper hoops (13), said loading hopper (8) being shiftable by its replacing one or more modules (M) of the filtering cage (5).

2. (Original) A press (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein said module (M) measures one fifth of the dimension of the loading hopper (8) measured along said predetermined axial direction (X-X, X'-X').

3. (Currently Amended) A press (1) as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said collection sump (10) presents an opening (12) for exit of the liquid component of the pressed fibrous material.

4. (Original) A press (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein said hoops (13) are positioned a distance apart equal to the measurement of said module (M).

5. (Currently Amended) A press (1) as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein a helix (22, 32) winds about each shaft.

6. (Original) A press (1) as claimed claim 5, wherein the helixes (22, 32) are multi-start helixes.

7. (Original) A press (1) as claimed in claim 6, wherein each helix (22, 23, 32, 33) presents a pitch which decreases in the direction in which the material advances during pressing.